



*Staffordshire
Archaeological
and Historical Society*



NEWSLETTER September 2017

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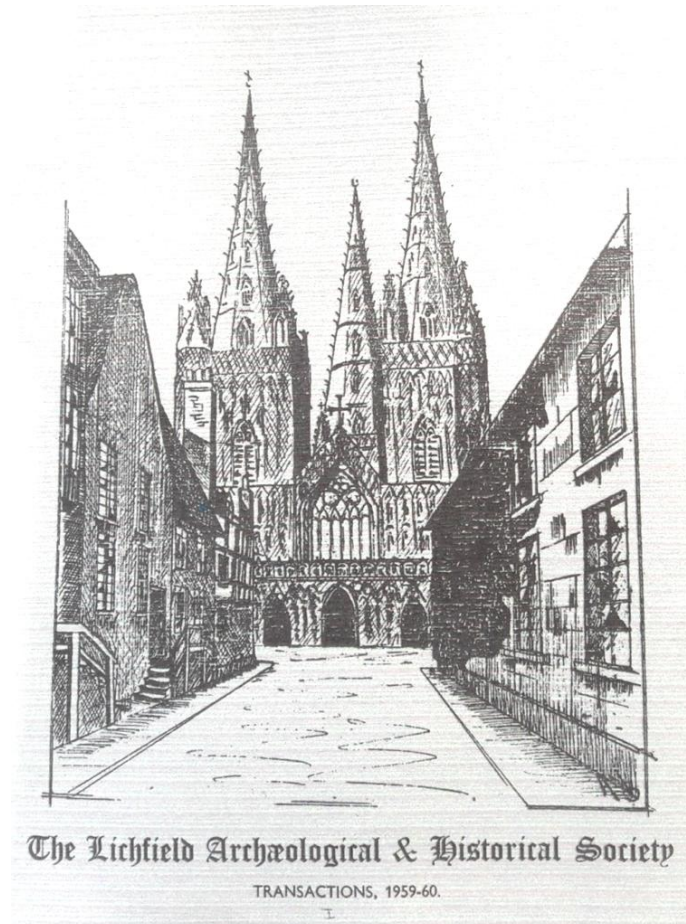
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Transactions First Issue cover by Miss A Smith of Streetly, a member of this society.

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Views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of the Society.

From the President

Welcome to the 2017 – 2018 season of the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society, heralded by this edition of our Newsletter. In addition to our forthcoming programme of lectures and visits, characterised as ever by their range, quality and diversity, two other aspects of our activities make this an important year for our Society. Firstly, I hope that by the time you are reading this our efforts to redesign and freshen the Society's website will have come to fruition. It is intended to be more colourful, accessible and immediately informative. It will come as no great surprise that this has taken some considerable committee time over the past months, but particular thanks are owed to Paul Norris who has guided us through the technicalities of the issues concerned, and has taken the lead on this project, briefing and liaising with our contractor. However, we would welcome your feedback on what you think of our new site, especially as there will be opportunities in the future for adjustments if required. Please do email us your views, or mention them to a member of the committee.

Our second 'milestone' will be the publication of the fiftieth volume in our Society's *Transactions*. We are especially proud of our record in this regard, even more so as we are now the only county journal in Staffordshire with annual – or virtually so – publication. To celebrate this landmark we are planning a special volume that will include some account of the part that the Society has played in researching, promoting and disseminating the history and archaeology of Staffordshire, but we are also already looking forward to important articles and reports scheduled to appear in volume fifty-one. Confident in our commitment to publication at a high academic standard, we are also looking at how we might continue to broaden and enhance our publication for the decades to come. Remember, if you would like a brief update on what each volume contains as it is published, short summaries are regularly published in this Newsletter. The committee has also been reviewing the potential part that SAHS might play in matters of advocacy relating to heritage and the historic environment, in which this Newsletter, together with our website, will be a principal means of keeping in touch with our members.

Readers of my previous contributions to the Society's Newsletter will no doubt be aware that I also take the opportunity of informing members of some of the wider issues affecting the world of heritage, archaeology and the historic environment at the time of writing. While I am aware that what follows will be thought controversial by some, a year on from the decision by a narrow majority for the UK to leave the European Union, the implications for archaeology in Britain are potentially dire and cannot be ignored. Many will no doubt be aware that in my personal view Brexit is an unmitigated disaster for the UK and its people in countless ways, but I will here restrict my comments specifically to the threat it poses to the archaeological world.

At first sight a recent report from the Heritage Alliance suggests that my fears, widely shared across the archaeological world, are too gloomy. Apparently, in response to the Alliance's 'Heritage Manifesto' the Chancellor, Phillip Hammond, agreed 'that investing in heritage can create places where people want to live, work and visit as well as boosting jobs growth and well-being'. Boris Johnson, Foreign Secretary, noted 'the magnificent representation of our country that [our heritage] offers overseas', suggesting that heritage tourism was uppermost in his mind. But tourism is only the tip of the iceberg, and questions have been put to the

Secretary of State for DCMS regarding the future of collaborative research projects on conservation issues between the UK and other countries.

Soundings last year among Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London revealed significant concerns about the future of EU research funding and joint international projects, as well as emotive, informed and principled observations on the retrograde nature of the decision. As noted recently in *Salon*, the online newsletter of the Society of Antiquaries, it has become 'clear is that the potential impacts [of Brexit] on the archaeological profession and the historic landscape are particularly severe. Having experienced decades of employment growth, extraordinary research achievements and supportive conservation legislation, the grand archaeological monument now faces the possibility of ruination'.

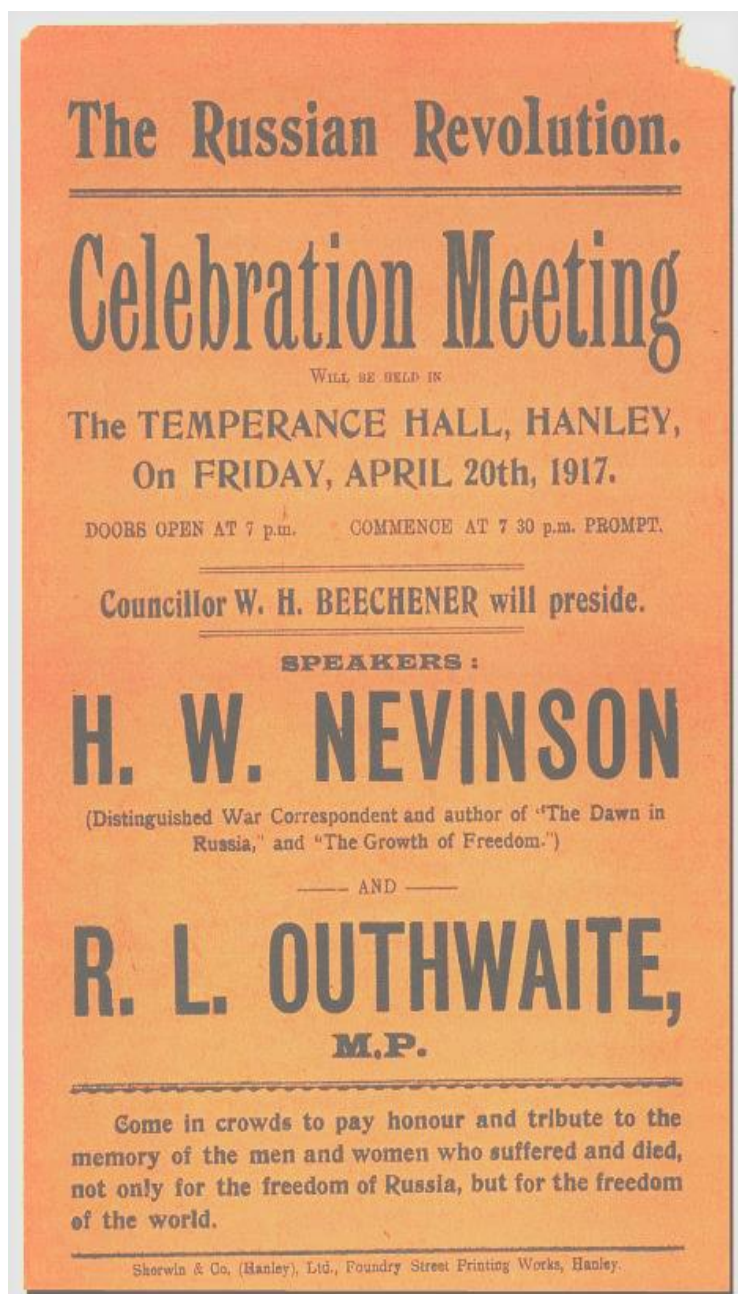
A report commissioned by the UK's four national academies – the British Academy, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Royal Society – has examined the extent of EU research funding among different UK disciplines. Overall, about 12% of all government research grants and contracts obtained by UK higher education institutions came from the EU (the UK gives 47%), but the money is not evenly distributed. The most vulnerable of the forty disciplines discussed is archaeology, receiving 38% of its research funds from the EU, revealing that much more than 'warm words' will be needed. UK archaeology has been 'stunningly successful' in winning European Research Council awards, so as the *Salon* commentator noted, 'If it [archaeology] is to continue as a world-leading university discipline as presently set up, it needs to confirm substantial new funding from the British government within months'.

The wider picture is equally worrying. Countryside Stewardship Schemes that subsidise farmers so they can grow pasture in sensitive areas rely heavily on EU funding. Through this scheme the downs around Stonehenge have been converted to permanent grassland to protect what remains of the ground archaeology in the World Heritage Site, while for the Norfolk Archaeological Trust over 60% of its income comes from EU farming grants; it is not yet clear how this funding will be replaced after Brexit. Nor is it clear, across the sector, how access in the UK to the expertise of colleagues from the EU, and vice versa, can be maintained.

Government claims to be aware of how important the UK's academic institutions and researchers are to 'heritage research', although this is clearly only a part of the picture discussed above. British archaeology has been under sustained pressure for the last few years, but this now threatens to become a matter of its very survival as a leading, world-class academic discipline. This may all seem rather remote from the world of local societies, but not so. As my comments earlier in this piece on our *Transactions* reminds us, we are all a part of this sector with our part to play and contributions to make. As a Society we draw upon the expertise of the sector in a variety of ways, and we all share common principles, values and objectives with regard to our heritage and historic environment. If British archaeology is impoverished, so are we, as a Society, as a community and as a nation.

John Hunt (Hon President, SAHS).

With acknowledgements to *Salon* and the Heritage Alliance



29th Earl Lecture
at Keele University
Professor Karen Hunt
**1917 Year of
Revolution..... in
Staffordshire**
**Monday 16 October 2017 at
8.00pm (preceded by a soft
drinks reception at 7.30)**
**Westminster Theatre
Chancellor's Building
Keele University**
**Promoted by Keele
University in collaboration
with the Jack Leighton Trust**
**Enquiries
a.sargent1@keele.ac.uk**

The above lecture is open to the public and is free of charge

Karen Hunt is Professor Emerita Modern British History at the University of Keele

Transactions

The next issue of Transactions of the Staffordshire Archaeological and Historical Society will be the 50th. We are looking to celebrate this and would like to hear from you if you have any memories of individuals who have made a contribution to the success of this journal over the years. We are short of information about the early years of Transactions between 1959 and 1982 and any thoughts that you might have or photographs showing members of the Society in action doing research which resulted in a paper would be very welcome, as would nominations for your favourite paper. Send responses to richard.totty4@gmail.com please.

The Rushall Psalter

The Rushall Psalter would be regarded as one of Staffordshire's Treasures were it not for the fact that it is at present kept in Nottingham in the Special Collection of the University there.

The Rushall Psalter is a parchment volume written in the 15th century. It was a chained book, and the original iron chain still survives. Its first owner, John Harpur, pronounced a curse on anyone who removed the book in an ownership poem on f. 20v of the volume, but offered a pardon to anyone who repaired it. The Rushall Psalter had been in the hands of the Leigh family since the 16th century, following the marriage in 1540 of William Leigh to Elizabeth Harpur. Elizabeth was the great grand-daughter of the original owner, John Harpur of Rushall in Staffordshire. His arms are shown on folio 21r. John endowed a chapel at Rushall, consecrated in 1440, and gave the Psalter to be used there. It was presumably retrieved from the chapel at the time of the Reformation and kept within the family for safe-keeping. It was lost to Staffordshire through marriage in 1811 when it passed into the hands of the Mellish family of Nottinghamshire.



Illuminated capital in the Rushall Psalter

The liturgical texts are richly illuminated. They consist not only of the Psalter (ff. 79r-187r), containing the text of the Psalms, but also a Calendar (ff. 14r-19v), the Hours of the Virgin (ff. 21r-78v) and the Litany of Saints (ff. 187v-192r).

The Psalter is the subject of a note in the Society's Transactions volume XXIII by John Whiston ; this has more detail about the material added to the original psalter at later dates which is of much local interest, Indeed Whiston thought that most of the interest in the volume was in the added material and not in the illuminations of the manuscript. Various Staffordshire historians including Stebbing Shaw and Frederick Willmore have made extensive use of the material in this unique volume,

The volume does not appear to have been studied much as I cannot find any references to information about its origin , that is where it was made, or about the quality of the illuminations. Only four of the pages appear to have been digitised, and these appear on the Nottingham University website.

Whiston's note in Transactions is still widely quoted and seems to be, 35 years after it was written, the best source of detailed information on the contents of the psalter.

(This note relies on the information about the Psalter in [http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/medievalliterarymanuscripts/rushallpsalter/therushallpsalter\(melm1\).aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/collectionsindepth/medievalliterarymanuscripts/rushallpsalter/therushallpsalter(melm1).aspx) which contains more background information and some more images of pages in the psalter.)

Richard Totty

KNAVES CASTLE _ AN ENIGMA PART ONE – HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION

By Sam Whitehouse, B Sc C Eng MICE

Introduction

In **Part One** of this work I seek to find early historical descriptions, including maps , and provide full details of these. In **Part Two** I use these sources to develop a plan, cross-section and perspective sketch of this curious earthwork as it would have appeared in ancient times.

In **Part Three** I investigate the possible original purpose of the site and argue that it may have served as a marker in at least two astronomical alignments. The reader is asked to entertain some novel and possibly controversial theories.

[Note on units of measurement – as old written and mapping sources use imperial measurements, I have generally kept to the same system)

Knaves Castle – its setting

Knaves Castle sat in an elevated position just south of the Watling Street in Brownhills; at this point Watling Street is aligned in a straight line West to East. I have driven along this road at the time of the autumn equinox and have been absolutely blinded by the great fiery red orb of the sun rising above the horizon in the East. To the West lies 'The Rising Sun' inn where Watling Street changes direction; to the East is the site of the Golden Hoard, just south of the Street and also on a rise in the land; further East and we come to the Roman town of Wall.

The area was heavily wooded until the 15th and 16th centuries when the trees were cut down to make charcoal for the burgeoning local iron industry. Thereafter the spread of heather and the grazing of sheep led to the creation of a huge area of heathland. The area was affected by mine workings but has now returned to a more natural state. See **photograph** below, taken from South side of Watling street, looking North towards original site of Knaves Castle.



Knaves Castle viewed from the south

Watling Street was built by the Romans during their occupation of Britain (AD 43 to to 410). We find that Wall (Letocetum) to the East was established about AD 50, and that in the West, Wroxeter

(Uriconium) was established about AD 58, thus the road was obviously constructed between these dates

Margary, (Roman Roads in Britain, 1957) says “From it [Letocetum] Watling Street continued upon a due westerly course which is very rigidly followed for 4½ miles to Brownhills Common by the present road, and it is raised 1-2 feet generally. A parish boundary accompanies for the first mile. The road is here crossing the rather desolate heath land of Cannock Chase, now rendered even more desolate by the coal-mining which is so evident on all sides. At the highest point of the common, a change of alignment is made to west-north-west, and this is again closely followed for 4½ miles to a point just beyond Cannock....”. See **Figure 1** below – Location Plan (from West to East, the Rising Sun, Knaves Castle and the Golden Hoard sites are shown encircled)

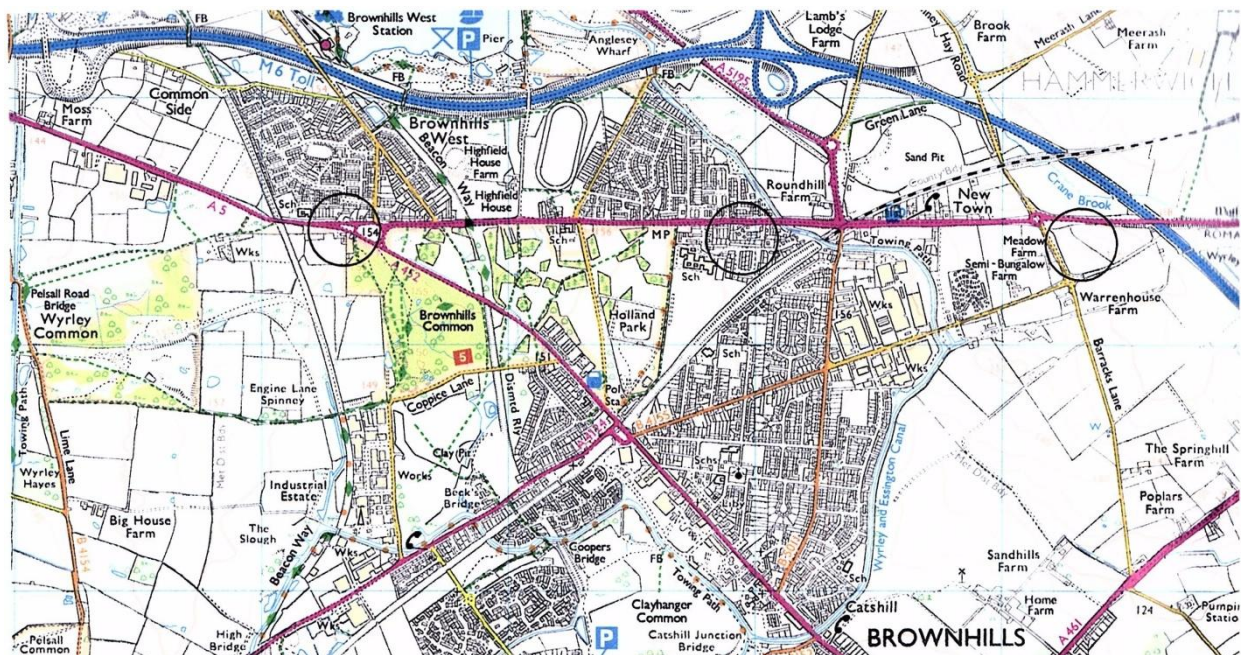


Figure 1 – Location Plan

Gerald Reece states however, that “It is now the belief of many historians that the section of the Watling Street that runs through Brownhills was in existence long before the Romans used it as their invasion route into north Wales. The Anglo-Saxons called the road 'the way of the Sons of Waetla'. The same term that they used to describe the Milky Way constellation”

Whilst he doesn't give any references, my research suggests some sources that he may have been aware of; Chaucer, in his 'House of fame', BOOK II refers (in a poem) to “ the milky weye, For hit is white; and some, parfaye [by my faith], callen hyt Watling strete”; Gawin Douglas, in his translation in the year 1513 of 'Virgils Aenid' terms the Milky Way 'Watlingstrete'. It would seem that Watling Street was a common medieval name for the Milky Way.

[Reece's book 'Brownhills – A walk into History' was published in 1996]

I suspected that the prehistoric road extended further West than the Rising Sun and an inspection of old field boundary maps of that area confirms that this could well have been the case - additionally, the projected route plotted on the old one inch maps coincides almost exactly with a zig-zagging mixture of tracks and lanes, for a distance of almost three miles, petering out in Landywood, and these still exist today. Commencing at the Watling Street break and heading West we first find a track to Lime Lane, then follow Gorsey Lane, Jones Lane, Shaw Lane and Landywood Lane to it's

termination at Upper Landywood Lane. Of course, this is all speculation and the prospects of finding any traces of the ancient road, if in fact it did exist here, must be very remote.

Tim Cockin in his *Staffs Encyclopaedia* (2000) says of Knaves Castle "It is believed to be of Bronze Age origin [3000 – 700BC] but has never been excavated"

The Staffordshire Hoard Symposium held at the British Museum in March 2010 comprised twenty seven papers, and thus the area surrounding that site (including Knaves Castle) was extensively examined, particularly in the papers presented by Della Hooke and Mattias Jacobsson. With two exceptions, I have not quoted from any of these works, but have endeavoured to go directly back to original sources.

A previously unexplored aspect of the broader setting of Knaves Castle is the juxtaposition of some other ancient sites; to the North, Castle Ring, a large, Iron Age (800 BC?) partially trivallate hill-fort (801ft AOD – above Ordnance datum); To the south Catshill, whose tumuli were swept away by the new canal in 1795 (500ft AOD); the Shire Oak, reputed to be two thousand years old in 1887 (542ft AOD); and Barr Beacon, Bronze Age and anciently fortified by ditches and large stones, one of which was blown up with gunpowder (744ft AOD). [For the latter three sites my source is primarily Frederick Willmore]

A further important local site is Castle Old Fort at Stonnall, but I have been unable to find any physical or historical connection.

The five sites ran in a straight line roughly North to South (an actual azimuth of 354 degrees). Catshill is in the middle of the group with Knaves Castle and Shire Oak each equidistant at 0.85 miles and Castle Ring and Barr Beacon each equidistant at 4.9 miles.

The precise distance from the high point of Castle Ring to its companion at Barr Beacon, as measured on the modern 1:25000 OS maps, is 15,750m, or 51,673 feet or 18,997.5 megalithic yards, using the conversion factor of one megalithic yard equals 2.72 feet – see Alexander Thom, 'Megalithic Sites in Britain'(1967). The number 19 will be familiar to astronomers as 19 years, the moons Metonic cycle. Although this spatial context can be readily seen on Sheet 42 of the 1834 edition of the 1 inch to one mile OS map, it is important to remember that modern facsimiles will have scale distortions. I also drafted a longitudinal section which shows that from Knaves Castle mound (520ft AOD) it would have been possible to see all of the other sites. The five sites may have been contemporaneous, although Shire Oak does seem to be the odd one out, being much younger, circa 100BC, but could it have once been the site of an earthworks?

I postulate elsewhere that this group of five sites was itself part of an larger regional pattern (see 'The Parted Veil', an unpublished manuscript).

A history and description of Knaves Castle

Any traces of the former ancient earthworks have long disappeared, the site is now (2017) completely covered by housing, whilst a large slice of the hill it stood on was taken when Watling Street was widened to dual carriageways in 1971. The map below, taken from the Ordnance Survey 1884 Edition, scale 1:2500, clearly shows a semi-circular embankment, some 131 feet in diameter, whilst within its arc was a small mound 33 feet in diameter, but not quite centred on the arc. The centre of this mound is located 100 feet south of the Watling Street southern boundary. By 1880 Watling Street had already been partially cut through the mound.

See **Figure 2** below – Site layout, 1884 O.S.

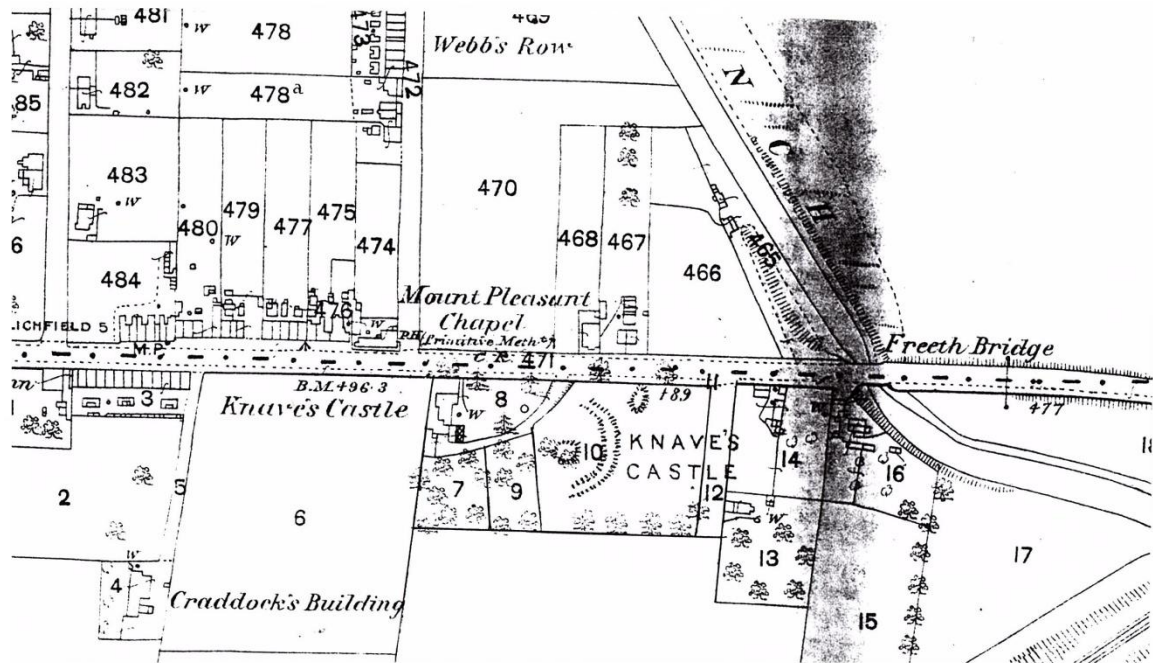


Figure 2 – Knave's Castle 1884

Later (contoured) maps clearly show the site sitting exactly inside the 500 foot contour line, Watling street falling away to both the West and the East; the land also falling to the north. The site is thus near the northern end of a ridge which is orientated just west of north. See **Figure 4** – below, 1950's OS map.

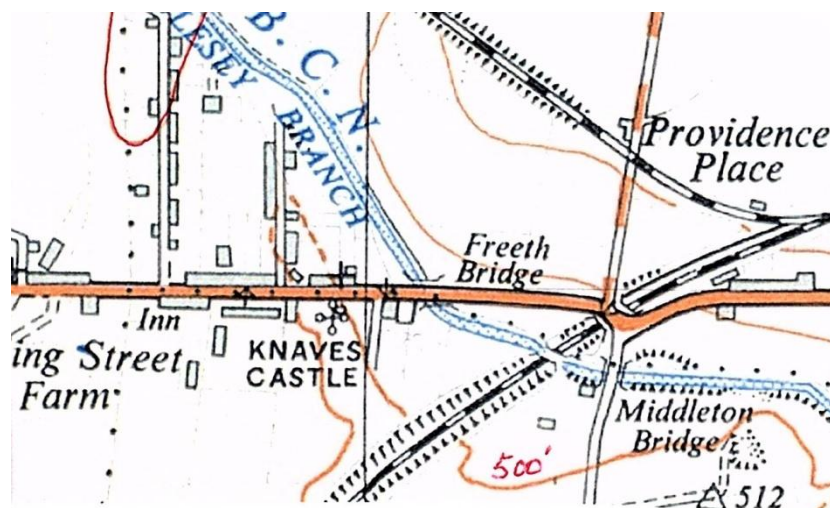


Figure 3 – Contour map

The site is well documented. Frederick Willmore, in his book 'A history of Walsall' (published 1887, reprinted 1972) he describes Castle Old Fort at Stonnall, but then goes on to say "Two and a half miles further on are the vestiges of another old work called Knave's Castle. It is described as having been a small tumulus enclosed with three ditches, and having an entrance on the south side, and hollowed on the top. But all is now changed; mound and ditch have disappeared, leaving only a slight unevenness of the ground, while its bastions are formed by hayricks. It stood near the Watling Street, and its origins and uses have been the subject of speculation. In the time of Plot the tradition still held that the heath was so infested with robbers that a watch was stationed here to guard strangers over it, which was repaid by a small gratuity. Others say that the robbers themselves harboured here, and

hence the appellation of “Knave’s Castle”. Mr Duignan thinks it was an ancient tumulus, and derives the name from Hnaef, a famous Danish sea King”

Willmore also says “many authorities concur in the belief that it [Watling Street] was one of the main British trackways across the island, and that it was re-constructed by the Romans”

A tumulus was “a mound of earth, sometimes combined with masonry, usually sepulchral, a barrow” A bastion was “a building; a projecting work at the angle of, or in the line of, a fortification, having two faces and two flanks, a rampart, a defence”- the reference to haystacks as bastions was a little joke by Willmore, but it does indicate that the site was farmed in 1887,

“Plot” was Doctor Robert Plot who wrote 'The Natural History of Staffordshire' dated 1686, and the full reference (Chapter 10, paragraph 84) actually reads as

“The origin of *Terley*, and *Stourton* Castles, I could nowhere meet with, but believe them both of good *Antiquity* ; nor of that treble entrenchment on the South side of the *Watlingstreet* near *Frog-Homer*, called *Knave’s-Castle*, which yet is not all above forty yards *diameter*, or fifty at most: in the middle whereof there is a round hill, now excavated, which for what use it has been (being so very small) I cannot imagine. The *tradition* is, that this *heath* being formerly all *wood*, and much infested with *robberies*, here was a watch set to guard strangers over it, for which the *passengers* allowed some small gratuity” . Others say that the *Robbers* themselves harbour’d here, and therefore it was called *Knave’s-Castle*. Some other such *Entrenchments* are also still in being, in several parts of the Country...”

Dr Plot also discusses the methods the Romans used to build their roads; “first digging a deep trench till they come to a good bottom, and then raising a high ridge upon a firm foundation of other materials than what they found upon the place: these seeming only to be made of gravel dug all along by the sides of each way, as may be seen upon the *Watlingstreet*, as you pass between *Wall* and *Frog-Homer*, *Occamsley pits* near *Knave’s castle* seeming to have been made upon this account only” Gerald Reece notes that a 'Frog Hall' is shown on Plots map c1680, he also includes in his book an estate map c1840 which shows several 'Froghall' fields opposite the Rising Sun.

“Mr Duignan” was W.H. Duignan, historian, who authored 'Notes on Staffordshire place names' published 1887. Duignan is quoted elsewhere as saying that the site was very clear in 1840 but was almost obliterated and enclosed in a garden by 1902.

A further source is John Aubrey, 1626-1697; 'Monumenta Britannica (1693) “it is circular and hath three ditches about it. I believe the diameter of it is not above twenty yards at most. The midst of it is not above more than two or three yards square, and hath a breastwork about it in the nature of a keep. One gate or entrance south”. My old dictionary defines a 'breastwork' as “a hastily constructed parapet thrown up breast high for defence”. Aubrey Burl, writing in his book 'The Stone circles of Britain, Ireland, and Brittany' (2000) says “John Aubrey was Britain's first great archaeologist, recording antiquities, obtaining information from colleagues about unconsidered remains, brilliantly deducing the prehistoric origins of stone circles..”; We should be thankful that he noted our obscure site in remote Staffordshire.

A map, together with cross-sections is found in The Victoria County History of the Counties of England – Volume 1, published 1908, and is shown below. See **Figure 4** – layout & cross-sections 1908

A brief note in the text of the document reads “OGLEY HAY : KNAVES CASTLE – The remains of this work are situated on Watling Street at the level of 500 ft., but they are very slight and near to the line of a roadway leading from the Watling Street.”

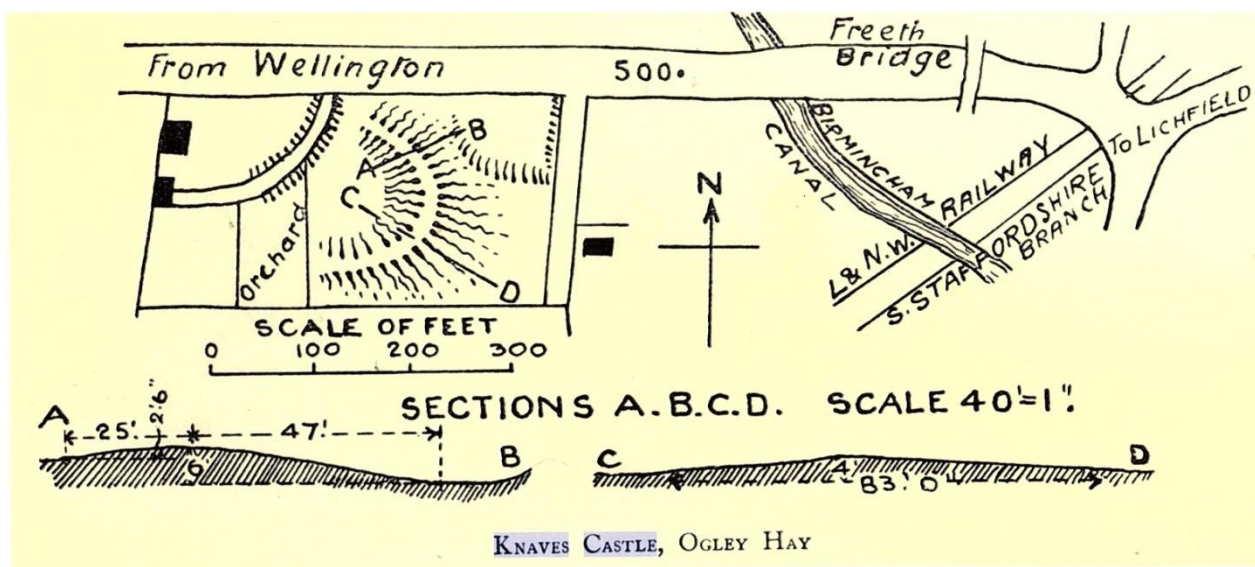


Figure 4 – Victoria County History 1908

The semi-circular embankment is clearly shown on the plan, with an outside diameter of 150 feet, but the sections confirm it to be so eroded as to appear only as a gentle rise or eminence in the ground. No central mound is shown. In his treatise "The Mystery of Stonnall Hill Fort" (2012) Julian Ward-Davies discovers what must surely be an obscure work 'The History and antiquities of the Parish of Shenstone', 1769, by the Reverend Henry Sanders, a one-time curate of that Parish; Reverend Sanders says this of it [Knaves Castle] - "On the borders of Shenstone on the Cannock, adjoining to the Watling Street, is a rise or swell of land, with three trenches; the circuit of this rise is nearly eighty three yards; it hath the appearance of a barrow [burial place], and having a fir tree growing on the center (sic), serves as a guide or landmark to strangers over a wild and desolate heath. The nearest trench is 5 or 6 yards deep, reckoning its gradual descent from the plain ground; the second is nearly the same; the third is full six yards; though greatly below the Castles and Shire Oak hills, it affords no despicable view of the adjoining country" - "though there remain no signs of a fort, it seems very likely to have been one to guard strangers passing over so wild and dreary a country as Cannock wood is at present; much more was it formerly, when full of woods and thicket"

Reece comments that "The site was sold in 1902 as a building plot. The mound and ditches were levelled"

Parts 2 and 3 will appear in a future edition of this Newsletter.

Lichfield Record Office

The Lichfield Record Office situated in the Friary Library is due to close this winter on a date as yet to be announced. The archive material deposited there, 80% of which is the archives of the diocese of Lichfield and Coventry, will be transferred to Stafford. Initially it will be stored and then made available to the public in the new Stafford History Centre now being planned. When Lichfield Library moves into the renovated St Mary's Centre in the Market Square a History Point will be included. Whilst it is not yet clear just how this will operate and what material will be available it is unlikely to include any original archive items, although much will be available in digital form either on microfiches or through internet free to use web sites.

Hill Fort Atlas

The new atlas of Hill Forts in the UK and Ireland is now online. See the free database at www.hillforts.arch.ox.ac.uk. This shows the location of over five thousand hill forts in the UK and has brief descriptions of each. An interactive database with much detailed information and linked to an aerial view of each hill fort. Several in Staffordshire are shown including our three local ones, Castle Ring at Cannock Wood, Borough Hill at Walton on Trent (just over the river in Derbyshire) and Castle Old Fort at Stonnall. A Citizen Science project it is now yours to explore. Enjoy.

Why you should read the Transactions: No. 3 of an occasional series

Mike Hodder

Transactions Vol XLIX contains articles on a wide range of archaeological and historical subjects from throughout the county: a prehistoric grave; a medieval font; medieval patronage; seventeenth-century (attempted) enclosure; and nineteenth-century grocers' stock. It also includes a list of Jim Gould's publications, a summary of recent archaeological work in Stoke-on-Trent, and two book reviews.

John Barnatt's article, "A Bronze Age flat grave at The Roaches, Staffordshire" describes an excavation which followed the chance discovery, near this well-known and prominent rock outcrop, of a burial that was not apparently covered by a barrow or cairn like those that can be seen throughout the Peak District. The burial contained the cremated bone of a mature woman, accompanied by some pig bones, a bone toggle a bronze awl. A Collared Urn was placed on the bones, rather than containing them, suggesting that it may have been used to carry them from the place of cremation and that they were then poured into the grave. Several colour photographs accompanying the article show how the burial location may have been chosen in relation to the natural topography: it is in a saddle between The Roaches and Hen Cloud, in a similar setting to the nearby natural, but dolmen-like, Bawd Stone.

There can be no excuse for not visiting one of the county town's historic churches after reading Rita Wood's article "The Romanesque font at St Mary's church, Stafford". She uses manuscript illustrations to explain the form and use of the twelfth-century font, one of the few visible remains of the medieval church, and to trace the sources of inspiration for its design. She notes that although there are similar sculptural compositions on other fonts in England and Germany they are not good parallels in detail, pointing to a strong and direct Italian influence for the Stafford piece, which includes human, animal and composite (and rather grotesque) figures and two inscriptions. The article contains a detailed and fascinating interpretation of the liturgical meaning and message contained in the design, which depicts the perils of this world and the significance and power of baptism, and relates it to the writings of St Gregory the Great. The font may have been carved under the patronage of Bishop Roger de Clinton.

Medieval patronage is a long-standing research interest of the Society's president, John Hunt, and in his article "Lordship and monastic patronage in twelfth- and thirteenth-century Staffordshire: the honor of Tutbury and its neighbours" his detailed analysis of the documentary and archaeological evidence considers motives for the foundation of monasteries, support of gentry within the honor (group of estates) for those foundations, preference for different monastic orders and the establishment of a family association with a place. He compares Tutbury with the results of his research on the honors of Dudley and Stafford and discusses the interest of lesser lords in ecclesiastical endowments and monastic foundations, such as Sandwell.

Large parts of medieval Staffordshire were set aside for hunting, but local people had the right to graze their animals and collect wood. Nigel Tringham's article, "The abortive enclosure of Needwood Forest in the 1650s", describes how enclosure was proposed here as part of the disposal and division of Crown land during the

Commonwealth, and commissioners were appointed to implement this. People claiming common rights presented a petition to Oliver Cromwell objecting to the loss of pasture and a water supply for their stock and there was subsequently on-site opposition when the commissioners arrived, including some personal violence and throwing down enclosures. The enclosure proposals ceased with the Restoration of 1660 but the land was eventually enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1801.

Peter Collinge's article, "Chinese tea, Turkish coffee, and Scottish tobacco: image and meaning in Uttoxetter's Poor Law vouchers", draws on an extensive study of the information provided on early nineteenth-century tradesmen and service providers by records of purchases by workhouses for their inmates. Illustrations and descriptions in billheads and newspaper advertising by Uttoxetter grocers (who at that time were suppliers of imported goods) particularly highlight the legitimacy of the sources of goods and their exotic nature, and the purity of production and processing. A Chinaman and a pagoda illustrate the source of tea, and for tobacco, rather than depicting black plantation slaves after the abolition of slavery in the Empire, processing in Glasgow is reflected by a Scotsman.

Jim Gould, archaeologist and historian, was a stalwart of the Society from its inception and, as Betty Fox's compilation "Jim Gould: a bibliography" shows, he was a prolific author. His particular areas of interest were Aldridge, Lichfield and Tamworth, and his excavations at Wall and its surroundings began the Society's long-standing involvement there. He wrote a few books but his publications are mainly journal articles, most of which were published in *Transactions*, including excavation reports and the results of documentary research. His publication of several shorter notes, making the results of his research and his ideas and theories widely and permanently accessible, sets an example that should be followed by others, and his articles in national and international journals brought the wider significance of the region's archaeology and history to the attention of an academic audience.

Jon Goodwin's summary of archaeological work in Stoke-on-Trent is the first of what will be a regular feature, and accompanied by a similar report on the rest of the county, to supplement site-specific summaries published in *West Midlands Archaeology* (Council for British Archaeology, West Midlands) and detailed reports in *Transactions* and other journals. The summary demonstrates the particular importance of post-medieval archaeology in the urban area and includes excavations at nineteenth-century pottery kilns, and recording chapels and churches. It also mentions masonry consolidation and interpretation of the excavated remains at the medieval Hulton Abbey.

Two books are reviewed in this volume. Malcolm Hislop and others' *Tutbury: 'A Castle Firmly Built' Archaeological and historical investigations at Tutbury Castle, Staffordshire* is an account of several years' documentary research and excavation which revealed the history and development of the castle, and John Hunt's *The Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of Mercia* is a well-illustrated book which brings scholarly research to a wide audience and whose interest in the period may have been whetted by the Staffordshire Hoard.

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## TALKS SEASON 2017-2018

**All talks are held in the Guildhall Lichfield starting at 8.00pm unless noted**

**29th September 2017**

**Nigel Coulton**

**As the Bishop said to the Nun...**

The Bishop is Roger Northburgh, Bishop of Coventry and Lichfield for well over thirty years in the fourteenth century including the years scarred by the catastrophe of the Black Death. The Nuns are those who lived in the Nunneries of the diocese to whom he paid official visits

after which he sent a report back to them. Nigel will be talking about these reports and the picture they allow us to see of the state of the Nunneries.

Nigel read Classics at Oxford long ago, but more relevantly for the last twenty years taught Latin to various groups and individuals, including post grad. medieval historians at Keele. Nigel also teaches palaeography to members of the Ranulph Higden Society. This all began by coming across the Borough Minutes of Newcastle under Lyme, which he transcribed and/or translated from the 14th century onwards. He further transcribed and translated the Quarter Sessions records of the Borough from the Restoration onwards. His main palaeographic task, however, has been the transcription and calendaring of the vast Correspondence Register of Roger Northburgh, which he has virtually finished.

**6th October 2017**

**Teresa Gilmore**

**The LeekFrith Torcs**

Four Iron Age gold torcs were discovered in a field by metal detectorists during December 2016 at Leekfrith, North Staffordshire. The find consists of three neck torcs and a bracelet. They were located in close proximity to each other and are believed to be the oldest Iron Age gold jewellery found in Britain.

Teresa Gilmore is the Finds Liaison Officer (East Staffordshire and North West Midlands) for the Portable Antiquities Scheme/ Birmingham Museum Trust.

**27th October 2017**

**Grahame Appleby**

**NOTE: THIS TALK IS A 7.30pm START**

**Must Farm, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire.**

It is described as the Pompeii of Britain. No need to say any more.

Grahame Appleby is now working with Leicester City Council as City Archaeologist having previously been Archaeologist at Must Farm project and has many years experience.

**10th November 2017**

**Mike Shaw**

**Medieval Town Planning**

Mike Shaw is an independent Archaeologist having previously been the Black Country Archaeologist at Wolverhampton City Council and Historic Towns Project Officer at Cheshire County Council.

His talk using examples from the Midlands and Cheshire explores the origins, growth and topography of medieval towns by utilising modern technology.

**24th November 2017**

**Samantha Paul**

**Mapping the Value of Archaeological Archives in Museums**

It is widely believed that the archives that result from commercial archaeological interventions are important heritage assets, though there is little in the way of research to support this assumption. Professional archaeologists focus on the storage crisis, the potential loss of important material and the cost of curation, rather than what value these archives actually hold in the present and for the future despite the fact that this has direct relevance in terms of policies relating to acquisition and discard. While archaeologists debate these issues, they are not the ultimate custodians of this material and often those that are (namely museums) have no say in what we expect them to be responsible for.

As a direct result of the current space crisis within museums, not only the value but also the very existence of these archives is being questioned by the institutions which hold them. One published view is that 'archaeological archives are not worth the space and time they take up within museum stores'. Current projects within museums aim to address the issues through the reduction of the archaeological archives that they hold. The varied approaches to these reviews have led to a situation where certain elements of the archive are 'legitimised' by being accessioned into the museum's collections while other aspects are effectively thrown away. But how are these decisions being made and what are the implications on how archaeological archives are created in the future?

**15th December 2017**

**The Annual General Meeting commencing at 7.30pm  
followed at 8.00pm by**

**Stephen Dean**

**Staffordshire Update**

Stephen is Staffordshire County Archaeologist and is tonight presenting an over view of the Archaeological Works that have been undertaken either directly by the County or as a result of planning conditions placed on development sites during the past year or so. Also an update on Cannock Chase Historical Environment Group will be included the overall roundup.

**23rd February 2018**

**Speaker yet to be confirmed**

**Talk topic yet to be confirmed**

**9th March 2018**

**Andrew Fitzpatrick**

**In the footsteps of Caesar: The Archaeology of the First  
Roman Invasions of Britain**

Andrew is a specialist in later prehistory joining Leicester University as Postdoctoral Research Associate in 2014 to lead the new Leverhulme funded research project which is the subject of the talk tonight. Andrew was previously at Wessex Archaeology.

**23rd March 2018**

**Keith Ray**

**Dorstone Hill, Herefordshire: A Neolithic Landscape**

The talk will focus upon the range of remarkable discoveries made across now seven seasons of excavation at the site from 2011. These include evidence for three of the earliest timber and daub aisled halls known from Britain, dating from around 3850-3800BC, with possibly also the earliest evidence for structural carpentry. A deep mortuary chamber has also been investigated, sited between two of the mounds; this was later covered by a mound, with a major human cremation pyre deposit subsequently laid along its ditch. The halls were burned down deliberately, and their remains were made to form the foundation for long earthen mounds; two of these mounds were stone-fronted and capped before all four mounds in a row were encased in a massive stone façade. This remarkable complex was then revisited and commemorative acts performed at it up to 600 years later. Meanwhile a causewayed enclosure was built on the hillside above the mounds, to enclose within its circuit of segmented banks and ditches a fourth mound, surviving intact today (but so far unexamined). The 'causewayed camp' is the principal target for excavation in 2017.

Keith Ray began his archaeological career 47 years ago excavating at a massive Neolithic henge site near Dorchester in Dorset. Since then, he studied archaeology to postdoctoral level at the University of Cambridge, lectured in archaeology at the University of Nigeria, and spent more than 25 years in conservation archaeology in Britain, working for universities and local government in Scotland, Wales, Oxfordshire, Plymouth and Herefordshire, where he was County Archaeologist from 1998 to 2014. He was awarded an MBE for services to archaeology and local government in Herefordshire in 2007. Currently a freelance heritage consultant, he also writes and edits books on archaeology and is Honorary Secretary for the Herefordshire Victoria County History. He is author of the books *The Archaeology of Herefordshire: An Exploration* (Logaston Press, 2015); lead author of *Offa's Dyke: Landscape and Hegemony in Eighth-Century Britain* (Windgather Press, 2016); and co-author of *Neolithic Britain: The Transformation of Social Worlds* (Oxford University Press, forthcoming – 2018).

**6th April 2018**

**Speaker yet to be confirmed**

**Talk topic yet to be confirmed**

**20th April 2018**

**Gavin Speed**

**Bronze Age Barrow and Anglo Saxon Cemetery at Rothley, Leicestershire**

Gavin Speed is a Project Officer at University of Leicester Archaeological Unit (ULAS), he has over 15 years archaeological experience, having excavated on a range of archaeological projects both in the UK and abroad, he has particular expertise in Iron Age settlements, and Late Roman / early Anglo-Saxon archaeology.

Gavin spent the early part of 2016 investigating the site at Rothley being the subject of the talk tonight, in advance of residential development.

**4th May 2018**

**Rob Ixer**

**NOTE: THIS TALK IS A 7.30pm START**



## Stonehenge and the Blue Stones

The precise number, identity, geological provenance and prehistorical significance of the various Stonehenge bluestones have been, and will always remain, contentious. Petrographical and geochemical re-examination of lithic assemblages collected during the last century, plus examination of all those from 21<sup>st</sup> century excavations, found within Stonehenge and its immediate environs (over 7000 samples) combined with dedicated, geological, *in situ* collecting has allowed a greater qualification and quantification of the rock types, demonstrated their relative archaeological 'importance' and suggested some of their possible origins. These data have shown that many earlier provenancing studies are incorrect whilst also uncovering cryptic questions. Can finding the geographical origin of the bluestones give us the transport route? We shall never know why Stonehenge was built and rebuilt but might discover from whence.

Rob Ixer was an economic geologist for 40 years before returning to archaeology. His interests are concentrated on early copper and bronze mining especially within the British Isles, Neolithic to Iron Age ceramics in Europe, Inca and Pre-Inca ceramics in the Andes and the geographical origin of almost any prehistoric lithic including all things Stonehenge. He writes many book reviews.

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## Boscobel



**May 2017 ; a warm sunny afternoon at Boscobel , enjoying tasting wine, jams and chutneys after a tour of the house by courtesy of English Heritage.**

**This was a very pleasant excursion. Boscobel is just over the border in Shropshire. There is much to see in the charming house and attractive garden and there is a tea room on site.**

## **Renewing Your Membership Sub – electronically through PayPal**

Annual Membership Subscriptions became due on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017. The rates have once again not changed and are: Individual Membership £20.00, Joint Membership £30.00, Concessionary Membership (Students and Unwaged) £15.00.

Many will be paying by cash or cheque, or for some it is taken care of automatically by bank standing order. Please speak to the Hon Treasurer if you would like to set up a standing order.

Alternatively you can renew subscription electronically. Log on to the Society's website [www.sahs.uk.net](http://www.sahs.uk.net) and from the home page follow the links to pay us using PayPal (you don't need to have a PayPal account). Select the type of Membership and with your bank card details to hand make the appropriate payment.

It is easy for us to keep our subscription records up to date as PayPal always email a full details of payer, etc. advice to the Honorary Treasurer immediately on the payment transaction occurring. The payer receives email confirmations, one from PayPal and one from ourselves. A secure and certain way of paying us.

Another means of keeping up to date.

Keith Billington

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### **New Book**

Michael Fisher who members will remember from his talk to the Society on A W N Pugin and his guided visits to Alton Towers and other Pugin designed or inspired churches has written a new book. This is 'Guarding the Pugin Flame, John Hardman Powell 1827-1895' ISBN 928-1-904965-51-0 284 pp £55. Powell was chief designer for the Birmingham firm of John Hardman & Co. who manufactured metalwork, stained glass and other furnishings for Pugin and architects influenced by him. The book was researched from newly discovered sources and examines Pugin's rich legacy of stained glass and metalwork still to be enjoyed today.

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### **Three suggested visits.**

#### **Walking through time, Sutton Park**

The Friends of Sutton Park Association and the Sutton Coldfield Civic Society have created six self-guided walking trails to explain some of the many well-preserved archaeological remains. Each trail starts at a gate or car park with an explanatory panel, and markers indicate individual sites along the route. The trails include prehistoric burnt mounds, a Roman road, the boundary and subdivisions of the medieval deer park, fishponds, wood boundaries, sawpits, millpools, a former racecourse and golf course, military practice trenches and targets, and a nineteenth-century estate, a railway and buildings. A map of the trails is obtainable at Sutton Park Visitor Centre, near Town Gate.

Sutton Park is open every day, admission free, car parking charge on summer Sundays and Bank Holidays.

The Friends of Sutton Park Association arrange two guided walks each year based on the trails. The next one is on **Saturday 30 September starting at 10am at the Town Gate**, off Park Road. Free, no need to book. <http://fospa.org.uk/>

### **Sandwell Valley, West Bromwich**

A free heritage trail leaflet is available from Sandwell Park Farm. The trail includes Sandwell Priory and several other sites around it. New on-site interpretation panels explain the eighteenth-century Sandwell Hall and its surrounding park. Objects found in excavations are displayed in a museum at Sandwell Park Farm.

[www.sandwell.gov.uk/sandwellvalley](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/sandwellvalley)

### **Wall Roman site, near Lichfield**

The site museum, manned by volunteers from the Friends of Letocetum, is open until 29 October on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month. Admission free.

<http://www.wallromansitefriendsofletocetum.co.uk/>

Mike Hodder

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### **"See it for Free": Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society**

This summer the Birmingham and Warwickshire Archaeological Society launched a new web-based guide to a selection of archaeological sites in their area. "See it for Free" provides self-guided visits to 13 archaeological sites in Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire. All of the sites are in public open spaces or can be seen from public footpaths and most can easily be reached by public transport. The sites available to explore range from enigmatic prehistoric monuments and Roman roads through to the remains of medieval castles, deserted villages and World War II gun placements.

Each site guide includes practical information about each site, a helpful map and an illustrated tour. Links to additional sources of information about each site are given so that visitors can find out more about the sites if they wish to.

The sites included on the BWAS on-line web site are just a tiny selection of the vast wealth of archaeological sites that are known to exist in the Birmingham and Warwickshire area and further sites will be added should "See it for Free" prove to be popular.

<https://bwas-online.co.uk/home/see-it-for-free/>

Sue Whitehouse

**STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP 2017-2018**

Membership fees: Individual £20, Joint £30, Student/Unemployed £15

Title.....

Names(s).....

Address.....

.....Postcode .....

Email .....

Phone.....

I agree to allow the Society to contact me/us by email and telephone.

I/we enclose £..... for my/our subscription for the year 2017/18 for Individual / Joint  
/ Student / Unemployed.

Signed .....Date .....

Please send to Ms S Lupton, 71 Birchwood Road, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS14 9UN

**Note: Direct Payments can be made using PayPal™ option on the Web site.**



**GIFT AID DECLARATION**

TO: STAFFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Choosing to Gift Aid the Subscription or donations you make to the SAHS will allow the Society, which enjoys Charitable status, to reclaim from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs the basic rate of Income Tax paid on the amount of those subscriptions or donations without any cost to you, the Member. It is only necessary to fill the form in once.

To do this you must be a UK Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax payer and have paid an amount at least equal to the tax the Society reclaims in the Tax Year concerned. Declaration:

Members Full Name .....

Address .....

.....Post Code.....

I would like the Staffordshire Archaeological & Historical Society (SAHS) to treat as Gift Aid all Subscriptions and Donations I make from the Date of this Declaration.

Signature..... Date.....



Still a few seats available !

## Visit to **Hereford Cathedral** to see the **Mappa Mundi**

By coach leaving Lichfield Bus Station on Thursday 14 September 2017 at 8.30am and leaving Hereford to return to Lichfield at 4.00pm.

We have arranged a guided tour of the cathedral at 12.00pm to see the main sights and afterwards we have arranged tickets for members to visit the Mappa Mundi exhibition and the chained library at their convenience in the afternoon. There is a cafe/restaurant in the cathedral precincts and others nearby in the city centre.

This visit has been especially arranged following this years talk on the Mappa Mundi which aroused much interest amongst members .

Please reserve .....seats on the coach to Hereford at £29 each, including tour and exhibition. I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to SAHS.

Name.....

Address.....

e mail.....

please send to Richard Totty Rock Cottage Redhill Rugeley WS15 4LL  
[richard.totty4@gmail.com](mailto:richard.totty4@gmail.com) 01543 491830

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Members are reminded that they have free access to the entire back collection of issues of Transactions , all 49 volumes, containing about 270 articles on the archaeology and history of the county, through our web site [www.sahs.uk.net](http://www.sahs.uk.net). All you will need is the password ; if in doubt as to what this is please e mail a member of the Committee.

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We arrange excursions to visit sites of interest to members ; if you have suggestions for future visits please let us know.

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The cover drawing was used on the cover of Transactions for many years , until a change in size required a change to a slightly larger image which was taken from a historic print with the same view. The artist was Miss A Smith who lived in Streetly. We have been unable to find any more information about her. Does anyone remember her?